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| http://www.booklistonline.com/images/spacer.gif |  | http://www.booklistonline.com/images/1720/17218/20BestBets-F1.jpg  **Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers: 2009.**  Quinn, Mary Ellen (author).  FEATURE. First published [September 1, 2009 (*Booklist*).](javascript:__doPostBack('WSC_690a28fe23134b1591a9b14a5fa3e7aa:WSC_2c2b5b1546954226a62fac719acbceaf','isssearch'))  As the new school year gets under way, our annual “Best Bets” list features new titles we reviewed in the past 12 months that are targeted specifically for students from the elementary- through high-school levels. For more good bets, check out the “Encyclopedia Update” coming up in the September 15 issue.  [**Animals: A Visual Encyclopedia**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3070157)**.** By Carrie Love and Caroline Stamps. 2008. DK, $29.95 (9780756640279).  Gr. K–4. Arranged by the major groups of animals, this volume offers a thorough introduction to the animal kingdom for young readers. Vibrant and abundant color photographs add to its appeal for both browsers and researchers.  [**Birds of the World**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3120086)**.** 11v. 2008. Marshall Cavendish, $359.95 (9780761477754).  Gr. 5–9. This encyclopedia, designed to introduce birds in all their varieties, provides clear and concise information. Full-color photographs, fact boxes, multiple indexes, and other features contribute to and encourage student research.  [**Britannica Illustrated Science Library**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2719507)**.** 16v. 2009. Encyclopaedia Britannica, $425 (9781593398453).  Gr. 5–9. We reviewed the 2008 edition of this set, but a newer edition is now available. The stunning visual layout places it in a class by itself, making it especially appealing for casual browsers. Each volume is devoted to a single topic and could serve as a stand-alone title.  [**Colonial America and the Revolutionary War: The Story of the People of the Colonies, from Early Settlers to Revolutionary Leaders**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3353965)**.** By Laurie Lanzen Harris. 2009. 400p. Favorable Impressions, $49 (9781931360340).  Gr. 2–5. The publisher of the Biography for Beginners series has released a wonderful history reference book presenting introductory-level information for primary and intermediate learners. The affordable price, well-organized basic information, and user-friendly format make it a valuable resource.  [**Encyclopedia of Art for Young People**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2779918)**.** 8v. 2008. 800p. Chelsea House, $280 (9780791094778).  Gr. 6–10. There aren’t many art encyclopedias targeted to youth audiences. This one provides an accessible and engaging introduction to art history, from antiquity to current trends.  [**Exploring the World of Aquatic Life**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3424702)**.** 6v. 2009. 480p. Chelsea House, $210 (9781604132557).  Gr. 5–7. The newest addition to the Exploring the World of . . . series offers an introduction to the diversity of animals that inhabit oceans, rivers, and lakes. The large typeface, clear explanations, and open layout will appeal to students.  [**Flight and Motion: The History and Science of Flying**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3259339)**.** 5v. 2008. Sharpe, $325 (9780765681003).  Gr. 6–10. Report writers as well as those simply interested in browsing will find much to hold their interest in this set, which provides comprehensive coverage of the history of aviation, including spaceflight, as well as the science and technology on which it depends.  [**Food and Nutrition**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3367732)**.** 8v. 2009. Marshall Cavendish, $479.95 (9780761478171).  Gr. 6–12. Articles offer succinct, basic coverage of a wide range of topics, supplemented by boxed facts, tables, charts, maps, and colorful photos. An excellent source for students doing research for science projects or papers on the relationships between food, health, and nutrition.  [**Global Issues in Context**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2985528)**.** 2009. Gale [[www.gale.com](http://www.gale.com)].  Gr. 6–12. This easy-to-navigate database offers perspective and insight into current world events. Content comes from more than 400 full-text news sources, magazines, and academic journals. Primary sources, such as interviews, legislation, and court proceedings, are also included, as is information from more than 80 reference titles.  [**History of the Ancient and Medieval World**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3119777)**.** 2d ed. 11v. 2008. Marshall Cavendish, $499.95 (9780761477891).  Gr. 9–12. This substantially revised set traces the history of humans, beginning with the first primitive civilizations and continuing through the waning days of the Middle Ages. The graphic-intense format will encourage investigation.  [**The Lincoln Library of Shapers of Society: 101 Men and Women Who Shaped Our World**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2798770)**.** 7v. By Timothy Gall and Susan Gall. 2008. Lincoln Library, $273 (9780912168234).  Gr. 6–12. Multipage biographies cover individuals who are standard language-arts and social-studies research assignments as well as individuals who may not be as well documented but are representative of current curriculum topics.  [**The Old West: History and Heritage**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3228189)**.** 11v. 2008. Marshall Cavendish, $359.95 (9780761478294).  Gr. 5–9. From the well-chosen cover art, to the clear and uncluttered typeface, to the good layout with plenty of white space, it is obvious that a great deal of thought about the user has gone into the creation and design of this set, which can be used by a wide range of students.  [**One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3007115)**.** 2008. 304p. DK, $24.99 (9780756638436).  Gr. 5–8. School and public libraries will want multiple copies of this must-have volume that provides the opportunity to learn about “more than one million things,” in standard DK style.  [**PebbleGo**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3510067)**.** 2009. Capstone [[www.pebblego.com](http://www.pebblego.com)].  Gr. K–2. Here is an animal database that presents information on more than 200 animals in a format suited to meet the needs of emergent readers. Special features include games, live-action video, and read-aloud audio.  [**Student’s Guide to Congress**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3174099)**.** By Bruce J. Schulman. 2008. 400p. CQ, $75 (9780872895546).  [**Student’s Guide to Elections**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2934638)**.** By Bruce J. Schulman. 2008. 394p. CQ, $75 (9780872895522).  Gr. 9–12. These easy-to-navigate, clearly written volumes in the Student’s Guide to U.S. Government series provide a lot of information and thought-provoking material. The third volume, *Student’s Guide to the Presidency,* is reviewed [here](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3481276).  [**UXL Encyclopedia of U.S. History**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3228110)**.** 8v. 2008. UXL, $485 (9781414430430).  Gr. 6–12. Locating precise answers to focused research assignments requires considerable time and judicious winnowing. The appeal of sets like this one is the convenience of having reliable and appropriate content compiled into one resource in one location.  [**UXL Encyclopedia of World Mythology**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3229522)**.** 5v. 2008. UXL, $305 (9781414430300).  Gr. 6–12. Like other exemplary UXL encyclopedias, this set offers a plethora of additional enrichment content, such as activities for students and teachers and suggestions to jump-start additional discussion or independent investigation.  [**World and Its Peoples: The Americas**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3174275)**.** 11v. 2008. Marshall Cavendish, $499.95 (9780761478027).  Gr. 9–12. This easy-to-navigate set provides a thorough examination of the Americas. The appealing layout includes color photographs or maps on almost every page.  [**World Book Student**](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3218820)**.** 2009. World Book [www.worldbookonline.com].  Gr. 6–8. The new version of *World Book Online Reference Center* includes all of the articles from the print versions of the *World Book Encyclopedia* plus additional features designed to help students learn to do research. |  |

**Works Discussed:**  
1. [Colonial America and the Revolutionary War : The Story of the People of the Colonies, from Early Settlers to Revolutionary Leaders](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3353965)  
2. [History of the Ancient and Medieval World](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3119777)  
3. [Britannica Illustrated Science Library](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2719507)  
4. [UXL Encyclopedia of World Mythology](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3229522)  
5. [Animals : A Visual Encyclopedia](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3070157)  
6. [Student's Guide to Elections](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2934638)  
7. [Global Issues in Context](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2985528)  
8. [Student's Guide to Congress](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3174099)  
9. [World Book Student](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3218820)  
10. [Birds of the World](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3120086)  
11. [The Old West : History and Heritage](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3228189)  
12. [PebbleGo](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3510067)  
13. [World and Its Peoples : The Americas](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3174275)  
14. [UXL Encyclopedia of U.S. History](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3228110)  
15. [Food and Nutrition](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3367732)  
16. [The Lincoln Library of Shapers of Society : 101 Men and Women Who Shaped Our World](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2798770)  
17. [Exploring the World of Aquatic Life](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3424702)  
18. [Encyclopedia of Art for Young People](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2779918)  
19. [Flight and Motion : The History and Science of Flying](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3259339)  
20. [One Million Things : A Visual Encyclopedia](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3007115)